

Careful observation has proven that the massive spindle of callus seen in some of the earlier cases was in fact due either to the irritation resulting from corrosion of poor quality steel nails or to persistent slight movement at the fracture site (nail too short or too long). Such massive callus is of poor quality and in these cases actual fragment fusion is very slow. *Actually callus formation and fracture healing are somewhat impeded by the presence of the nail in the medullary canal.* This observation, verified by Maatz at the Kiel Clinic in 300 cases, "constitutes the greatest disappointment that I have experienced as a physician, because I had set the highest hopes upon the callus-stimulating effect of the medullary nail." Furthermore "it is evident that closed medullary nailing is suited chiefly for transverse fractures of the femur in the middle third." In addition, perhaps in the hands of certain expert bone surgeons, the nail can be used in selected cases of nonunion, where the fracture must be exposed to freshen the bone ends or insert grafts (open nailing), in bone shortening operations, and certain pathological fractures.

The book is highly recommended to all surgeons who treat fractures. It tells everything that is known about medullary nailing. The chapter on "callus" is a classic. Böhler's observations on the results of skeletal traction are sound and practical. These alone are worth the price of the book.

\* \* \*

**BRITISH SURGICAL PRACTICE VOL. I.** Under the General Editorship of Sir Ernest Rock Carling, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., Consulting Surgeon, Westminster Hospital, and J. Paterson Ross, M.S., F.R.C.S., Surgeon and Director of Surgical Clinical Unit, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Professor of Surgery, University of London. In Eight Volumes (With Index Volume), Butterworth & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., London, England. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A., 1947. \$15.00.

As one reviews this first volume of an eight-volume system of surgery, he is impressed by the very substantial, high quality paper upon which it is printed and by the consequent excellent appearance of its illustrations.

The subject matter is excellent, also, although one misses a brief historical resumé of the subject and, in certain disorders, a more detailed account of their pathologic physiology. Excellent suggestions as to treatment abound. What it lacks in a coherent, well-integrated account such as one expects from a textbook authored by a single person, it gains in the greater completeness and more authoritative treatment provided by numerous experts in their fields.

One is a little puzzled to find so many unrelated subjects covered in the same volume and to find "peripheral arterial diseases" included in the chapter devoted to the "autonomic nervous system" instead of under "arteries." When all eight volumes lie before one, however, reference to related conditions will undoubtedly be made easily and we trust without confusion, and without unnecessary repetitious accounts of the subject. One awaits the succeeding volumes with real anticipation that reading them will be amply rewarded.

\* \* \*

**THE NURSING OF TUBERCULOSIS.** By O. V. Buxton, S.R.N., and P. M. Maculloch Mackay, S.R.M.N., with a Foreword by Richard R. Trail, M.C., M.D., Illustrated by Nora Lewis, S.R.N. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol, Simkin Marshall (1941), Ltd., London, 1947. \$2.00.

In the preface of this brief volume the authors mention that it is "written expressly for the nurses and student nurses engaged in the nursing of tuberculous patients." The subject material is well covered. The illustrations are very helpful for the student.

As can be expected there is variation in terminology and spelling which may confuse student nurses. The indications listed for various procedures may also not agree with some

of the teachings of American chest specialists. For this reason it may be advisable to recommend this book for graduate nurses interested in diseases of the chest rather than as a standard text for student nurses.

\* \* \*

**HANDBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.** By Everett L. Goar, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Ophthalmology, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. With 48 Text Illustrations and 7 Color Plates. St. Louis. The C. V. Mosby Company. 1948. \$5.50.

This handbook of Ophthalmology is the result of the setting down of his lectures to medical students by the author. In so doing, he has given a brief description of the commoner means of examining the eye, and the commoner eye diseases. He has also very briefly mentioned methods of treating eye diseases without going into details. There are some excellent illustrations in the book which add to its value. It would make a good handbook for someone who wished a superficial knowledge of facts about ophthalmology without ever expecting to treat the eye.

\* \* \*

**PRACTICE OF ALLERGY.** By Warren T. Vaughan, M.D., Richmond, Virginia. Revised by J. Harvey Black, M.D., Dallas, Texas. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. 1948. \$15.00.

The publication of a Second Edition of Vaughan's Practice of Allergy with revisions by Dr. J. Harvey Black is of importance to the field of Allergy. The first edition of the Practice of Allergy appeared in 1939. Since then many books in this rapidly developing field have appeared but none possess the quality, flavor and distinction which its erudite author gave it. Warren Vaughan's book still remains a historical bridge between our old concepts of the underlying causes of allergic manifestations and our newer interpretations.

In common with all publications in so broad a field by a single author, it has the usual weakness, that no one author can write authoritatively on all phases of the subject. This has been partly overcome by the addition of a chapter on Pollen Surveys in the United States and Adjacent Areas and Field Surveys and Aerobiology by Oren C. Durham, an expert in the field. Dr. J. B. Howell has rewritten the chapter on Fungus Infection with Associated Allergy, a phase of allergy which needs much clarification. The chapter on Vital Capacity by Dr. James Holman is a brief but important addition to our understanding of the pathologic physiology of the respiratory mechanism in bronchial asthma.

Finally it should be stressed that there are few books on Allergic Diseases which present so clearly the original concepts of the late Dr. Vaughan on the Balanced Allergic State or Allergic Equilibrium and Food Groups. The revisionist is to be commended for retaining these in the vivid wording of the First Edition.

Since its first appearance in 1939, the reviewer has found Vaughan's Practice of Allergy an excellent reference book and he feels assured that it will be helpful as a guide, not only to the general practitioner but also to the specialist in Allergic Diseases.

\* \* \*

**SURGICAL DISORDERS OF THE CHEST.** By J. K. Donaldson, B.S., M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery and in charge of Thoracic Surgery, University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, Arkansas. Second Edition, pp. 485, Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1947. Price, \$8.50.

The main additions to the first edition (1944), are concerned with a more detailed consideration of the advances in traumatic thoracic surgery made in World War II, the treatment of pleurisy, surgical diseases of the esophagus, and operations to correct congenital cardiovascular anomalies.